(b) whether Government have assessed the capacity regarding storage of rain water;

(c) if so, what is the capacity; and

(d) the schemes formulated by Government to utilise the capacity?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.R THAKUR): (a) to (d) India receives a rainfall of about 4000 billion cu.m. every year. Out of this about 1869 billion cu. m. appears as runoff in the various rivers of the country. The replenishable Ground Water is around 432 billion cu.m. The requirement of the country, upto 2025 AD can be met through optimal utilisation of these renewable water resources.

The utilisable runoff by conventional methods has been assessed as 690 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). A live storage capacity of 176.73 BCM has been created by construction of large dams & medium projects upto 1995 including about 3 BCM capacity created by medium & small dams. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCM are under planning.

Government of India is also promoting Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the Sector Reform Project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. The rooftop rain water harvestiang structures are quite large in number and are mostly at individual level and, therefore it is difficult to assess their storage capacity. Its contribution towards storage can only be marginal in comparison to the storage through conventional methods.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Marketing Tie up Between Air India and Virgin Atlantic

1204. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has finalised any marketing tie up with Virgin Atlantic for flights between Indian origin and London and New York;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) how far Indian aviation will be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India has concluded an agreement with Virgin Atlantic under which Virgin Atlantic would be permitted to operate 3 services per week between Delhi and London using the traffic rights of Air India. These flights will be operated under a Code-share/Block Space arrangement with Air India under which Air India would be allocated a block of 64 scats on each one-way flight.

(c) The agreement will improve the air service operations between India and U.K. Air India expects to earn a net profit of Rs. 13.8 crores per annum from the Code-share arrangement.

Integration of Vayudoot Staff with Indian Airlines

1205. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of integrating the staff of Vayudoot on its merger with the Indian Airlines in 1993; and

(b) whether the employees of erstwhile Vayudoot Corporation have been provided adequately upon thier absorption in the short haul operation department of the Indian Airlines Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The employees of Vayudoot have been absorbed in the Short Haul Operations Department of Indian Airlines in accordance with the decisions taken by the Absorption committee appointed by the Government.

Enquiry into Hijacking of an IA Plane

†1206. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the hijacking of Indian Airlines plane on 24th December, 1999;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.